

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1202

By Cobb J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Harold W. Byrd on his exemplary career and meritorious service to his community and state.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who, through their hard work, expertise, and dedication, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Harold Byrd is one such remarkable person who is most assuredly deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, Mr. Byrd was born in Selmer, Tennessee, and grew up in the Byrdlock community as the youngest son of Madison Arthur and Louise Bodiford Byrd's seven children; and

WHEREAS, a man of humble beginnings, Harold Byrd grew up in a loving home where he was instilled with the lessons of hard work and discipline, having labored in the fields of his family's cotton and soybean farms, in addition to logging; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Bartlett High School, Mr. Byrd attended the University of Memphis, where he received his Bachelor and Master of Business Administration degrees; and

WHEREAS, a consummate public servant and reliable friend and neighbor, Harold Byrd served his fellow Tennesseans with honor and distinction in the Tennessee General Assembly from 1976-1982 and had the privilege of being the Democratic nominee for the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee in 1994; and

WHEREAS, he was elected by his peers to serve as Chairman of the Shelby County Legislative Delegation from 1980-82 and Secretary from 1976-78, upholding a proud family tradition of public service; and

WHEREAS, from 1982-1984, Mr. Byrd served as Special Assistant to United States Senator Jim Sasser, in which position he earned the respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike as a liaison between the Washington, D.C. and Tennessee offices and as an advisor to the Senator on urban, agricultural, and political matters; and

WHEREAS, utilizing his education and innate business acumen, Harold Byrd co-founded the Bank of Bartlett, Bartlett Mortgage, and Bartlett Travel and rendered astute service as the Director, Vice-Chairman, and President of the companies; and

WHEREAS, drawing from his early experience of working in his family's soybean farm, Mr. Byrd was a partner in his family's farming operation, Byrd Brothers Farms, from 1976-2001; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Byrd returned to the University of Memphis and admirably served his alma mater as an adjunct professor of Political Science, President of the University of Memphis Alumni Association, the Rebounders Club, the Tiger Clubs, and the Tiger Scholarship Fund, in addition to participating as a member of the University of Memphis Board of Visitors, the Fogelman College Board of Advisors, the University of Memphis Society, the Tiger Clubs, and the Highland 100; the university recognized his hard work and dedication by bestowing upon him its Distinguished Alumnus Award—the university's highest award; and

WHEREAS, Harold Byrd has generously donated his time and talents to such venerable organizations as the American Heart Association and the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission, of which he served as Treasurer; the Memphis Race Relations and Diversity Institute, of which he is a founding member; the Rise Foundation Board; and the Board of Directors of Saint Francis Hospital Bartlett and Memphis in May, as well as the Chambers of Commerce for Memphis, Germantown, Collierville, and Bartlett; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Byrd has a deep affection for helping young people become better citizens by serving on the Board of Directors of Youth Villages, the Board of Trustees of Layne College, and Chair of the Lemoyne Owen College Freedom Gala; and

WHEREAS, his philanthropic efforts and tireless service were recognized with his receipt of the Partner in Education Award from Shelby County Schools and the Ralph Hatley Silver M Award from the University of Memphis Athletic Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Byrd is a devout member of the Church of Christ, and he is most grateful and humbled by the merciful bounty and blessings the Lord has bestowed upon him; and

WHEREAS, Harold Byrd possesses the spirit of commitment and dedication to excellence that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor this outstanding public servant and former colleague and recognize his numerous accomplishments and contributions to this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Harold W. Byrd for his immeasurable service to Tennessee, salute his distinguished career as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly, and extend to him our best wishes for his continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.